

Amendments to the Abstract:

In the English translation document, please add the abstract at page 18 line 1, as follows:

--ABSTRACT

According to the invention, an availability request is transmitted by a client to a server in order to verify whether a server is available. A response to said availability request is transmitted by the server to the client by means of a confirmation message if the server is available. The client transmits a message regarding the availability of the server to other clients who then prevent the transmission of an availability request to the server at least for a predefined period of time.--